

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059628
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00
OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 DOEE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 PA-01 /123 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:D E ZWEIFEL:MM
APPROVED BY NEA:N A VELIOTES
S:A HOUGHTON
NEA/EGY:D O NEWBERRY
/NEA:D SMALL
NEA/IAI:G KULICK

-----022366 082144Z /61

O 082115Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: INCIDENT IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: A. STATE 59041, B. TEL AVIV 3069

1. DEPARTMENT DELIBERATELY HAS CHOSEN TO RAISE IN DIPLO-
MATIC CHANNELS MATTERS RELATED TO PETROLEUM ACTIVITY IN
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. GIVEN PREVIOUS HISTORY (E.G. 1976
INCIDENTS), WE CANNOT ALLOW ATTENUATION OF GOI RESPONS-
IBILITY ON THIS ISSUE. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO GET GOI TO DE-
SIST FROM PRESENT CONFRONTATIONAL ACTIONS. THIS REQUIRES
POLITICAL DECISION BEYOND COMPETENCE OF ISRAELI NAVY
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COMMANDERS ON SCENE OR, WE BELIEVE, ISRAELI MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE.

2. FURTHER ON INCIDENT ITSELF, BOSWELL OF AMOCO INFORMED
DEPARTMENT MARCH 8 THAT RUBASH (WHO NOW IS ON RIG 511)
REPORTED THAT GOI HAS NOW MOVED A "MISSILE BOAT" INTO AREA.
AN ISRAELI TUG HAS TIED UP TO AMOCO BUOY, AND AMOCO PRE-

SUMES THAT ISRAELIS INTEND TO MOVE OR POSSIBLY CONFISCATE THE BUOY. STANDARD OIL OF INDIANA (AMOCO PARENT COMPANY) PRESIDENT MYERS HAS SENT TELEGRAM TO SECRETARY VANCE ON MATTER, AND AMOCO OFFICIALS STRESS THAT THIS IS MATTER REQUIRING POLITICAL RESOLUTION.

3. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST THAT EMBASSY TEL AVIV CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL, MODIFYING THE TALKING POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

SUBSTITUTE FOR SECOND POINT:

--AMOCO HAS TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO AVOID INCIDENTS BY CONFINING ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE AREA WEST OF THE "MEDIAN LINE".

SUBSTITUTE FOR FOURTH POINT:

--WE TRUST THAT THE GOI WILL TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO FURTHER INTERFERENCE WITH AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS IN AREAS WHICH THE GOI ACKNOWLEDGES TO BE IN WATERS CONTROLLED BY EGYPT.

AT APPROPRIATE POINT IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THERE ARE PRESSURES IN U.S. TO HAVE A PUBLIC AIRING OF THIS CONTROVERSY. WE ASSUME THAT GOI AGREES THAT WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE IRRITANTS RE U.S./ISRAELI RELATIONS. VANCE
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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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